

Then the extreme uniformity of the bone in *Sciurus vulgaris*, the American *Sciuri*, and *Reithrosciurus*.

The absence of compound-baculum forms from Africa, and their dominance in the Oriental region, where, apart from *Reithrosciurus*, only *Ratufa* and *Funambulus* have simple ones.

The resemblance of the baculum of *Ratufa* to that of the African *Protoxerus*, and the possibility that there is some special relationship between the giant squirrels of Asia and West Africa.

The development of the compound bacula along two lines, to one or other of which nearly all forms may be readily assigned. Thus the bacula of *Tamiops*, *Dremomys*, *Lariscus*, and *Nannosciurus* are all absolutely of the *Tomeutes* type, while the many species of *Callosciurus* belong to the other. *Menetes* alone is rather more doubtful, its peculiarly slender-shafted baculum having a blade somewhat connecting the two types.

Observations on the forms found in allied groups, in *Tamias*, *Citellus*, the flying squirrels, and others must be reserved for a future paper.

XXXV.—*On some Pteropine Bats from Vulcan and Dampier Islands, off the N.E. Coast of New Guinea.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE British Museum has received a small collection of mammals obtained by Mr. A. S. Meek on the two islands mentioned in the title, and among them are examples of three members of the genus *Pteropus*. One of these, from Dampier Island, may be referred to *P. hypomelanus luteus*, but its representative in Vulcan Island appears to be a new race of that widely distributed species. With *P. h. luteus*, on Dampier Island, there also occurs a new form of the *P. mariannus* group.

Pteropus basiliscus, sp. n.

General characters as in *P. tonganus* and *vanicorensis*, the species being similarly a large-eyed member of the *P. mariannus* group. Colour of head above pale greyish brown, passing gradually into the ochraceous buffy of the mantle. Back

seal-brown mixed with greyish-white hairs. Chin and interramia blackish brown; sides of neck dull ochraceous buffy; abdomen blackish brown, liberally mixed with shining whitish hairs.

Skull and teeth as in *P. tonganus*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Forearm 142 mm. (other specimens 141 and 136).

Third finger, metacarpus 94 (other specimens 98 and 92); first phalanx 67, second phalanx 101.

Skull: greatest length 65·6; maxillary tooth-row 24·7; diameter of orbit 13·3.

Hab. Dampier (= Krakar Island), off the N.E. coast of New Guinea, from which the island is separated by Basilisk Strait.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 15. 2. 18. 2. Collected 20th February, 1914, by A. S. Meek. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. Three specimens.

Although I provisionally use a binomial name for this bat, to fall in with Dr. Andersen's arrangement of the group, I am inclined to think that, in company with *P. vanicorensis*, it will later be considered as a local subspecies of *P. tonganus*. From the former, which I have not seen, it would appear to be distinguishable by the paler-coloured head, not sharply contrasted with the colour of the mantle, while from the latter it may be separated by its more ochraceous mantle and its browner back and belly. Its geographical position is a long way off from the Santa Cruz and Tonga groups of islands, the respective localities of the other two forms.

Pteropus hypomelanus vulcanius, subsp. n.

Top of head dull buffy, with an intermixture of shining buffy hairs, this colour passing into the darker buffy or ochraceous buffy of the nape. Back abruptly brown, lined and rendered more greyish by an intermixture of light buffy or whitish hairs. Cheeks darker than crown. Interramia smoky brown. Throat dull buffy, browner in the middle line; sides of neck deep buffy like nape. Chest and belly dark olive-brown, washed with buffy or dull whitish.

Dimensions of the type:—

Forearm (c.) 130 mm.

Third finger, metacarpus 90; first phalanx 64, second phalanx 99.

Skull: greatest length 66.

Hab. Vulcan (= Manumudar) Island, N.E. New Guinea.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 15. 2. 18. 4. Collected 29th

December, 1913, by A. S. Meek. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. Six specimens examined.

This subspecies is evidently most nearly allied to *P. hypomelanus luteus*, K. And., which Mr. Meek obtained on Dampier Island, but is readily distinguishable by its much darker chest and belly, which contrast strongly with the colour of the neck, instead of nearly agreeing with it. *P. h. luteus* was recorded by Dr. Andersen from S.E. New Guinea, extending up to the Huon Gulf. Its occurrence in Dampier Island is therefore not surprising.

To some extent this subspecies of *hypomelanus* tends to take on the characteristic colour-pattern of *P. mariannus* and its allies, and confirms Dr. Andersen's remarks on the affinities of the two groups ('Catalogue,' p. 172).

XXXVI.—On some Australian Malacodermidæ and Curculionidæ collected by Mr. G. E. Bryant. By ARTHUR M. LEA.

IN 1908 Mr. Bryant spent some months collecting insects in Australia. Of the beetles taken, the majority of the Malacodermidæ and Curculionidæ* were sent to me for examination, and the number of new species obtained will show the care taken with many of the smaller forms, so often passed over by collectors.

Mr. Bryant writes that in the year named he "arrived at Fremantle on 21st July, spent two weeks collecting round Fremantle, Perth, and Mundaring. Too early in the season to do much good. Arrived at Adelaide 8th August, and spent a week there, and then two weeks in Victoria. Arrived at Sydney the end of August, and spent five months collecting in New South Wales. Baan Baa is in the north of New South Wales, between Walgett and Werris Creek. Spent about a week round Brisbane and a month at Cairns and Kuranda, and finally left Australia from Port Darwin."

In addition to the localities of specimens taken by Mr. Bryant, I have given others when specimens of the same were in my own or in other collections. A few of the species here described were not actually taken by Mr. Bryant,

* The Belides, about fifteen species, were overlooked when the specimens were sent to me, and the Amycterides were examined by Dr. Ferguson.